anticipated cost of Rs. 323.41 crore as a part of 'National Rail Vikas Yojana'. An outlay of Rs. 10 crore has been proposed for the work during 2003-2004. The work would be taken up once the Budget is passed by the Parliament.

Gauge conversion under Unigauge scheme

1822. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the zone-wise total length of the railway lines still to be converted into broad gauge under the Unigauge scheme, indicating zone-wise conversion so far made, under the scheme;

(b) the total estimated cost of the Unigauge conversion scheme, phase-wise; and the expenditure already incurred thereon; and the cost escalation already suffered under the scheme; and

(c) the details of conversion programme still to be implemented and the estimated cost thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) The zone-wise details of total length of Railway lines identified for conversion under Unigauge, which are still to be converted, alongwith the lines converted upto 31.3.2002, are as under:

Railway	Kms converted upto 31.3.2002	Identified km still to be converted
Central	144	287
Northern	1398	1521
North Eastern	1196	2264
Northeast Frontier	829	939
Southern	1932	1721
South Central	1982	1429
South Eastern	318	818
Western	1201	1268

(b) The total estimated cost of the Unigauge conversion scheme would be known only when detailed survey of all the lines to be converted

in the scheme is completed. The cost escalation is also not feasible to be assessed in such a case. An expenditure of Rs. 9231.68 crore has been incurred on gauge conversion under Unigauge upto 31.3.2002.

(c) Gauge conversion of 8720 km of MG/NG lines to BG is in progress with a throwforward of about Rs. 10,000 crore as on 1.4.2002.

Projects under NRVY

1823. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 427 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st February, 2003 and state:

(a) the details of the projects to be undertaken under National Rail Vikas Yojana with date of completion and the total cost involved;

(b) the targets set for the year 2003-04 and the amount of money allocated for the purpose; and

(c) the steps being taken to ensure that the work is carried out as per schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) The projects to be undertaken under National Rail Vikas Yojana include works pertaining to: (i) Strengthening of Golden Quadrilateral (ii) Strengthening of rail connectivity to ports and development of multi-modal corridor and (iii) Construction of four Mega Bridges.

The projects in National Rail Vikas Yojana, except the mega bridges; are planned for completion in a period of five years. The mega bridges are expected to be completed in a time frame of 6 to 7 years. The total cost of this initiative has been assessed as Rs. 15,000 crores.

(b) During the year 2003-2004, Rs. 1090 crores have been allocated for the sanctioned projects under National Rail Vikas Yojana. The projects will be progressed as per the availability of resources.

(c) Funding of these projects is planned through a mix of budgetary and non-budgetary resources. This will ensure availability of funds and